

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

171646Z Mar 05

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 001053

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS TO EUR/WE, NEA/ELA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/17/2015

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [SP](#) [IZ](#)

SUBJECT: SPAIN: IRAQI AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH CHARGE

Classified By: Classified by Charge D'Affairs J.Robert Manzanares for reasons 1.4(b) and (d)

//RELATIONS BETWEEN IRAQ AND SPAIN//

1.(C) On March 17, Charge met with Iraqi Ambassador to Spain Falal Al-Khudairi. Ambassador Al-Khudairi characterized the relations between the GOI and the GOS as "ok". He said relations had been "cool" after the newly-elected Socialist government pulled Spanish troops from Iraq. The GOI conveyed to Spain its understanding of why the troops were pulled out and its recognition that Spain participated in the multi-national contingent at a crucial time. Ambassador Al-Khudairi said Iraq was ready to move past old differences with Spain, especially since both face a common enemy in terrorism. The Ambassador said that relations were steadily improving and he attributed this to the successful Iraqi elections that were held in January. He said he believes that the GOS may send an Ambassador to Iraq in the near future, perhaps after the next round of elections. Ambassador Al-Khudairi stated that Spanish Foreign Minister Moratinos was planning a visit to Iraq in the future, although no date has been fixed.

//ATTITUDES WITHIN IRAQ//

2.(C) Ambassador Al-Khudairi stated that the situation in Iraq has been "calming down" since the elections. He expected that many of the people and political parties who had not participated in the January elections would participate in future elections. He said that those people and parties had not expected a positive outcome to the elections and, not that they see that things went well, they will be more willing to become involved. He said that the Iraqi people were "fed up" with the violence and he attributed the attacks within Iraq to outside influence; namely Syria, Iran and Al Qaeda. The Ambassador further stated that Iran and Syria were afraid of the democratic model in Iraq and that the Iranians had been trying to spark civil war between the various ethnic/religious groups present in Iraq. He said that the Iraqi people appreciated the U.S. presence in Iraq and that the Iraqi Embassy in Madrid would cooperate with the U.S. Embassy in whatever matters the USG feels are in the best interest of Iraq.

//COMMENT//

3.(C) This was our first meeting with Al-Khudairi since his arrival in December. He has not been especially active in the diplomatic community (he has limited Spanish language skills), focusing instead on organizing his Embassy staff. We are encouraged by his readiness to engage now and his willingness to assist us on matters of joint interest.
MANZANARES